



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 12, 2016

CONTACT: Sito Negron
915.351.3500 (o) // 915.227.0360 (m)

Senate Health and Human Services Committee to discuss access to health care, 1115 waiver renewal, and changes to DFPS and women's health programs

Austin – The Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will hold a hearing on Tuesday to review interim charges related to access to care, status of renewal of the 1115 waiver, the state's efforts to combat Medicaid fraud, and changes to the Department of Family and Protective Services, and women's health programs. The interim charges to be discussed are as follows:

- Study the impact of the Section 1115 Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Waiver on improving health outcomes, reducing costs, and providing access to health care for the uninsured, and monitor the renewal process of the waiver. Explore other mechanisms and make recommendations to control costs and increase quality and efficiency in the Medicaid program, including the pursuit of a block grant or a Section 1332 Medicaid State Innovation Waiver for the existing Medicaid program.
- Monitor the implementation of legislation and riders related to health and human services that were considered by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation, including but not limited to:
 - The impact of changes made by the Department of Family and Protective Services, Child Protective Services on child safety, workforce retention, prevention, and permanency;
 - Initiatives to reduce Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse, and other cost containment strategies, including examining the processes and procedures used by managed care organizations to address Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse; and
 - The consolidation and expansion of women's health programs at the Health and Human Services Commission.

The hearing begins at **9 a.m. CST** in Austin (8 a.m. MST in El Paso), and may be viewed live online at this following link: <http://www.senate.texas.gov/bin/live.php>

José Rodríguez represents Texas Senate District 29, which includes the counties of El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio. He represents both urban and rural constituencies, and more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico border. Senator Rodríguez currently serves as the Chairman of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus, and is a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Health and Human Services; Veteran Affairs and Military Installations; Nominations; and Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs.